



### **F/O Edward E. Beebe, USAAF**

**Flight Officer Edward E. Beebe of Graniteville, MA graduated from Westford Academy in June 1942 at the age of 17. Later that year, he enlisted in the Army Air Force and was selected for the highly competitive Aviation Cadet program. Following completion of primary and advanced training, he received his wings in June 1944 and was ordered to Laredo, TX for B-24 co-pilot training. He was then transferred to Westover Field, MA for assignment to a combat crew. His last stop in the US was at Grenier Field where he joined the many thousands of other airmen on their way to the ETO.**

**In February 1945, Ed and the crew of the B-24H “Pin Up Girl” were assigned to the 705<sup>th</sup> Squadron , 446<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group of the “Mighty 8<sup>th</sup>” in Bungay, England.**

**On 5 April 1945, while on their way to a target in Bayreuth, Germany, “Pin Up Girl” was blown far off course by unexpected winds and had to abort their mission. After turning back to their base in England, the aircraft was hit by flak over occupied Holland, setting one of their fuel tanks on fire. Several other crew members bailed out, but Ed remained at the controls and was able to successfully crash land his bomb-laden aircraft in a farmer’s field in Barendrecht, Holland. His heroic actions saved not only his life, but also those of his three remaining crew members.**

**Following his capture, he was taken to a German field hospital in Rotterdam where his badly fractured left femur was surgically repaired. Flak wounds to his right leg and numerous burns were also treated.**

**As a result of his actions on that day, Ed was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Purple Heart. We are honored to have a large number of his artifacts in our collection including his DFC and the B-24 control wheel that was in his hands during his crash landing. F/O Beebe passed away on 3 June 1994.**